

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6291

S E C R E T CAIRO 8833

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: GENEVA TALKS -- LOCATION OF US WATCH STATIONS

REF: GENEVA 6905

1. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, I WOULD CAUTION THAT LOCATING US WATCH STATION TWO WHERE ISRAELIS HAVE SUGGESTED, I.E., ELEVEN KILOMETERS WEST OF UMM KHUSHAIB, IS LIKELY TO CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT FOR SADAT. IT WILL NOT BE VERY FAR FROM NEW EGYPTIAN FORWARD LINE AND WILL OBVIOUSLY BE DIRECTED SOLELY AT EGYPTIANS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW ONE CAN JUSTIFY THAT LOCATION AS WATCHING BOTH SIDES, DESPITE RATIONALE GIVEN BY ISRAELIS.

2. AS YOU KNOW, THERE CONTINUES TO BE CONSIDERABLE UNHAPPINESS IN HIGH CIRCLES HERE ABOUT SOME OF THE TERMS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT. FAHMY, FOR EXAMPLE, REMAINS CONVINCED THAT THE US POSTS ARE A GREAT MISTAKE AND GAMASY IS ALSO NOT HAPPY ABOUT THEM. I THINK WE MAY EXPECT THAT THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION AT GENEVA WILL BE WATCHING US CLOSELY AND WILL BE QUICK TO CONCLUDE, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, US-ISRAELI COLLUSION. FACT THAT THERE ARE SENSORS AGAINST ISRAELI LINE IS NOT LIKELY BE VIEWED BY EGYPTIANS AS BALANCING PLACING US MANNED POST FAR TO THE WEST OF UMM KHUSHAIB. WHILE IT

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IS HELPFUL TO HAVE THE ISRAELI VIEW ON WHERE THE WATCH

STATIONS SHOULD BE, I THINK WE SHOULD ALSO ASK THE
EGYPTIANS THEIR VIEWS BEFORE WE COME TO ANY FIRM CONCLUSIONS
OF OUR OWN.

3. WE SHOULD TAKE CARE THAT THE THREE US MANNED POSTS
BE SO LOCATED THAT THEY DO NOT RPT NOT ADD TO SADAT'S
CURRENT TROUBLES.
EILTS

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